

2/4/63 - 5:15 p.m.

MEMCOM of conversation between Director McCone and Roger Hilsman:

Director McCone:

A Representative Bruce from Indiana has made a speech. Says that there ~~XXX~~ were 88 missiles in Cuba--42 were removed, 46 remained. He challenges the Secretary of State to deny this. Challenges him to deny that he didn't have this information. I agreed that we had information about 88 Cuban missiles in Cuba. Information was given to us. It was known in the Intelligence community. It was for this reason that we have been extremely scrupulous in analyzing all available intelligence. We can't prove the negative.

Went on to say that a medium-range missile involves quite an array of equipment, the missile itself, the launching platform, the fuel auxiliary unit, ~~XXXXXX~~ control system and a large number of special tank trucks to handle the fuel. This makes quite an array of stuff.

The only thing to do is to have a penetrating inspection which would probe the entire island. That's my line. You might use it. It is in the papers tonight. You might tell Dean.

Mr. Hilsman:

Yes, sir.